

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim Amendments

The Applicant has amended claims 1, 5-6, 14-15, 17, 20-21, and 56-59. Applicant respectfully submits no new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 1-23 and 56-60 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

Claims 1-9, 11, 16-23, 56, 58 and 60 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mogul (US Patent Number 6,704,798) in view of Knauerhase et al (US Patent Number 6,345,303), hereinafter referred to as Knauerhase. The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of these claims.

In the Applicant's present invention, proxies are stored in Proxy Repositories and a proxy execution environment server retrieves a required proxy and installs the proxy in the location (a specific proxy path) requested. The proxies claimed in the present invention are general-purpose proxies (para. 0033) that are designed only to read input data, process the input data and output the processed data to a general purpose stream.

Along with installing proxies in the proxy chain, the present invention utilizes a "proxy cradle" coupled to the network service points and the proxy chain between service points. The proxy cradle handles proxy-to-proxy communications and manages the network service points. (Figure 3, para. 0033) The present invention, including the proxy cradle, allows for providing a wide range of proxies and consequently, wider server content to terminals having different operating characteristics. If a proxy execution environment (PEE) server chain fails and disrupts a session in progress, the present invention provides that a replacement, which includes a proxy cradle and the network service points, be "configured automatically and dynamically for any reason during a session. (para. 0064)

In summary, the Applicant's present invention provides access to proxy modules that may be combined at the behest of the server. The proxy cradle improves

communication by managing the proxy-to-proxy communication in the proxy chain from one network service point to another service point. And the present invention is capable of automatically and dynamically changing proxies or the proxy path during a session.

The Mogul reference discloses server control of transcoding conversion at a proxy or client location. Mogul discloses sending instructions that are executable by a proxy server, or a client, for converting information sent by the server. The server embeds information in a query response that a "representation conversion" uses to convert the information being returned by the server to the client. The server determines whether to send the response to a proxy server or the client, whichever contains the server specified representation conversion program that is more suitable for display at the client (Col. 8, lines 50-64).

The Knauerhase reference discloses a network proxy that is dynamically chainable and capable of selecting between destination devices to serve a request from a source device. Knauerhase's network proxy is described as "a so-called smart proxy" (col. 3, line 18). The network proxy examines requests for a service and acts on commands that may be in the requests and so on. The network proxy in Knauerhase is very different from the general purpose proxy claimed by the Applicant. The Knauerhase reference discloses that a "...system administrator, or even the network proxy itself, may dynamically change (or add or delete) the next device to which the network proxy is chained, thus providing substantially increased flexibility in system configuration" (col. 8, lines 61-66). The Applicant's present invention utilizes proxies that are not as capable as the Knauerhase proxy. The Applicant's proxy receives input data at the input, processes the data and then outputs the processed data at the proxy's output without regard to the source or destination of the data. The proxy cradle of the present invention provides management of communication, between service points, across the proxy path.

As noted in the Detailed Action, the Mogul reference does not disclose the use of a proxy chain. The Knauerhase reference is cited for teaching the use of chainable network proxies as equivalent to the Applicant's proxy chain. The Knauerhase reference however, does not use general purpose proxies nor a proxy cradle like the

present application that is also missing from the Mogul reference. The Applicant respectfully submits that the reference regarding the proxy cradle in Knauerhase indicates that the destination selection module is part of the network proxy (col. 7, lines 5-16). The destination selection module is disclosed as being implemented a number of ways, but the commonality is the use as a destination selector in or connected to a network proxy. As disclosed and claimed, the Applicant's proxy cradle is separate logic that ties the network service points to the proxy chain composed of "not too smart" proxies. The Applicant respectfully submits that Knauerhase uses a smart proxy rather than the Applicant's general purpose proxy and neither Knauerhase nor Mogul disclose the proxy cradle and the modification of a proxy chain during a session nor requests. The Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of amended independent claims 1 and 17 and the respective dependent claims 2-9, 11, 16, 18-23, 56, 58, and 60.

Claims 10, 12-15, 57 and 59 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mogul in view of Knauerhase, as applied above, in view of Smith et al. (US Patent Number 6,377,901), hereinafter referred to as Smith. The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of these claims.

The Smith reference is cited for sending requests in parallel. Smith discloses a proxy server array where communications with each proxy server can occur in parallel. However, the Applicant's proxy execution environment is different in operation from the proxy servers of Smith. As claim 12 indicates, the proxies are installed in parallel in response to a request to a proxy execution environment server. Respectfully the Applicant submits that communication with servers in parallel is not the same as communicating with servers in parallel and installing proxies in parallel, sometimes in the same path: "... proxy path having four proxies therein can be realized in several ways, such as a single proxy chain of four concatenated proxies, or as four concatenated single-proxy "chains" provided by four different PEE servers, or as a first proxy chain of two concatenated proxies (provided by one PEE server)." (paragraph 40). Further, claims 10, 12-15, and 57-59 depend directly or indirectly from amended

independent claims 1 and 17 and contain the same limitation of the proxy cradle for the general purpose proxies and proxy chain modification during a session which is not found in the Mogul, Knauerhase or Smith references. The Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of these claims.

Response to Amendments


The Applicant appreciates the reasoning provided by the Examiner in the Detailed Action. Hopefully, the proxy cradle language is sufficient to clarify the proxy cradle functions. In summary, the Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention uses "not too smart" proxies that are not as complicated and capable as the Network Proxy of Knauerhase, so a proxy cradle is utilized. Mogul, Knauerhase and Smith do not disclose using the proxy cradle as claimed by the Applicant, nor do they disclose automatically repairing a proxy chain during a session.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

The Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,


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